

CHAPTER 6

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, AND LICENSURE

Some of the disciplines within the Health Services category require that the officer be licensed or certified in their profession. Only the specialties discussed below currently require licensure for applicants to qualify for an appointment. Some programs have more stringent licensure or registration requirements for certain types of assignments that must be met before an officer can be assigned to those programs. The Division of Commissioned Personnel, Officer Development Branch, maintains the current standards for the various disciplines that require licensure.

Dental Hygiene

- (a) Except as noted in (b), below, licensure by a State as a dental hygienist is required.
- (b) New dental hygiene graduates, defined as individuals who have obtained a qualifying degree within 12 months of the date of call to active duty, may be appointed to the Reserve Corps for a limited tour of duty not to exceed 1 year. Evidence of licensure is required for removal of the limitation and for retention in the Corps.

Medical (Health) Records Administration

- (a) A current, valid registration with the American Medical Records Association is required.
- (b) New medical (health) records administration graduates, defined as individuals who have obtained a qualifying degree within 12 months of the date of call to active duty, may be appointed to the Reserve Corps for a limited tour of duty not to exceed 1 year. Evidence of registration is required for removal of the limitation and for retention in the Corps.

Medical Technology

- (a) Except as noted in (b), below, certification by a State, the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, or the National Certification Agency, as a medical technologist is required.
- (b) New medical technology graduates, defined as individuals who have obtained a qualifying degree within 12 months of the date of call to active duty, may be appointed to the Reserve Corps for a limited tour of duty not to exceed 1 year. Evidence of certification is required for removal of the limitation and for retention in the Corps.

Optometry

- (a) Licensure as a professional optometrist in a State is required except as noted in (b), (c), and (d) below.
- (b) New optometry graduates, defined as individuals who have obtained a qualifying degree within 12 months of the date of call to active duty, may be appointed to the Reserve Corps for a limited tour of duty not to exceed 1 year. Evidence of licensure is required for removal of the limitation and for retention in the Corps.
- (c) A new graduate who enters directly into an optometry residency and enters the Commissioned Corps immediately following its completion without intervening practice, may be appointed to the Reserve Corps for a limited tour of duty not to exceed 1 year. Evidence of licensure is required for removal of the limitation and for retention in the Corps.
- (d) If commissioned upon successful completion of Parts I, II, and III of the National Boards of Optometry, the officer has 12 months in which to obtain licensure in a State. Officers will be commissioned on a limited tour of duty consistent with the above.

Physician Assistant

- (a) Certification by the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants is required, viz., successfully passing the initial certification exam and maintaining certification by the completion of 100 Continuing Medical Credits every 2 years and successfully passing the recertification exam every 6 years.
- (b) New physician assistant graduates, defined as individuals who have obtained a qualifying degree within 12 months of the date of call to active duty, may be appointed to the Reserve Corps for a limited tour of duty not to exceed 1 year. Evidence of certification is required for removal of the limitation and for retention in the Corps.

Podiatry

- (a) A current, unrestricted, and valid podiatry license in a State except as noted in (b), below, is required.
- (b) A new graduate who enters directly into a podiatry residency and enters the Commissioned Corps immediately following its completion without intervening practice, may be appointed to the Reserve Corps for a limited tour of duty not to exceed 1 year. Evidence of licensure is required for removal of the limitation and for retention in the Corps.

HEALTH SERVICES OFFICERS - RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Social Work

- (a) Except as noted below, each PHS social worker must possess and maintain a current State license or State certification. If licensure or certification is not offered by the State in which he/she is domiciled or the State from which he/she is called to active duty, the individual must achieve and maintain certification by an appropriate organization such as the Academy of Certified Social Workers or the Federation of Clinical Social Workers. The certification process requires a master's degree in social work from a school of social work accredited by the Council of Social Work Education and at least 2 years of post-degree, supervised practice by a social worker who is licensed or certified by a State or by an appropriate organization such as the Academy of Certified Social Workers or the Federation of Clinical Social Workers.
- (b) Newly graduated social workers may be appointed to the Reserve Corps for a limited tour of duty, not to exceed 3 years, during which they must obtain licensure or certification.

Health Administration

- (a) Individuals applying to the Commissioned Corps with masters degrees in Health Administration **must have graduated from a program that has ACEHSA (Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Services Administration) accreditation.** The DCP Transactions Analysis Branch uses this as a commissioning criterion.
- (b) The Commission is the only organization recognized to grant accreditation to master's level health administration programs in the United States and Canada.

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